

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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R 161624Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8750

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, AO

SUBJECT: PRAVDA COMMENTARY BLASTS AFRICAN STATES WHO OPPOSED MPLA
AT OAU

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY CAPETOWN

1. SUMMARY. PRAVDA EDITORIAL (JAN 15) LAMBASTES THE ANTI-MPLA AFRICAN STATES RATHER THAN THE U.S., BUT OTHER PRESS COVERAGE AND A RADIO COMMENTARY JAN 15 CONTAIN LITTLE EVIDENCE THAT MOSCOW IS SOFTENING ITS CRITICISM OF U.S. ROLE IN ANGOLA SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

2. PRAVDA'S (JAN 15) COMMENTARY BY VALENTIN KOROVNIKOV (WHO WAS IN ADDIS ABABA FOR THE SUMMIT) BLAMES "PRESSURE FROM WESTERN POWERS" ON SEVERAL AFRICAN STATES FOR THE ABSENCE OF A MEANINGFUL RESOLUTION AT THE OAU SUMMIT. ACCORDING TO KOROVNIKOV, THERE EXIST IN AFRICA RIGHTIST REGIMES WHICH ARE RELUCTANT TO CUT THEIR TIES WITH
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"FOREIGN CAPITAL", AND WHICH DO NOT SUPPORT "SOCIALLY PROGRESSIVE" MOVEMENTS. IT WAS TOWARD THESE STATES, KOROVNIKOV CONTINUES, THAT

"WESTERN DIPLOMACY" APPLIED "STRONG PRESSURE", AND THESE COUNTRIES THUS "REMAINED SILENT" ON THE QUESTION OF SOUTH AFRICAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA. KOROVIKOV APPLAUDS THE EFFORTS OF SOMALIA, NIGERIA, GUINEA, MOZAMBIQUE, AND OTHER, THE RESULTS OF WHICH DEMONSTRATED THAT "IMPERIALIST FORCES" ARE TRYING TO RETAIN ANGOLA AS A BUFFER FOR THE "BASTION OF RACISM" ON THE CONTINENT. KOROVIKOV CONCLUDES THAT EVEN AFRICAN UNITY "CANNOT WITHSTAND A UNITED FRONT OF THE IMPERIALISTS AND RACISTS" AND THEIR EFFORTS TO RETAIN "NEO-COLONIALISM" IN AFRICA.

3. OTHER PRESS COVERAGE OF ANGOLA REPORTS THE ALLEGED CONTINUED MILITARY SUCCESSES OF THE MPLA ON THE NORTHERN FRONT. PRAVDA ALSO REPLYAS STATEMENTS BY SEVERAL AFRICAN LEADERS--NIGERIA'S MUHAMMED, TANZANIA'S NYERERE, AND MOZAMBIQUE'S MACHEL--WHICH ARE ESSENTIALLY DIRECTED AT THE U.S. AND CONTAIN CHARGES WHICH HAVE BEEN HEARD HERE BEFORE.

4. RADIO MOSCOW COMMENTARY JAN 15 (WHICH WE WERE TOLD IN ADVANCE BY SOVIET JOURNALISTS WOULD BE "AUTHORITATIVE") WAS HARDHITTING DEFENSE OF SOVIET POSITIONS WHICH DID NOT PREVIEW ANY CHANGES.

5. COMMENT. PRAVDA'S COMMENTARY IS INTERESTING IN THAT IT DOES NOT PLACE THE U.S. BY NAME AT THE TOP OF THE LIST OF VILLAINS, AND RESERVES MOST OF THE VITRIOL FOR THE AFRICAN STATES WHICH REFUSED TO BOARD THE PRO-MPLA BANDWAGON. NEITHER THE ACCOMPANYING QUOTES FROM "PROGRESSIVE" AFRICAN LEADER OR RADIO MOSCOW COMMENTARY DEMONSTRATE A SOFTENED ATTITUDE.
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